

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-3, 5, 7, 10-12, 14, 17-19 and 21-24 are amended. Various amendments are made to the claims for clarity and are unrelated to issues of patentability.

Entry of this Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 because the amendments: (1) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons set forth below; (2) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration; and/or (3) place the application in better form for appeal should an appeal be necessary. More specifically, the amendments to independent claims correspond with subject matter previously recited in dependent claims 3 and 20, for example. The other amendments are merely for clarity and consistency. No new issues are raised. Therefore, entry is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116.

The Office Action rejects claims 7-8, 13-15 and 20-23 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent 6,456,629 to Bjorkqvist et al. (hereafter Bjorkqvist). The Office Action rejects claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Bjorkqvist in view of U.S. Patent 5,138,614 to Baumgartner et al. (hereafter Baumgartner). The Office Action also rejects claims 5-6, 9-12 and 15-19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Bjorkqvist. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 recites a MTP level 3 protocol integrating unit receiving a predetermined message from a lower layer of protocol and determining whether the message is a N-ISUP message type or is a B-ISUP message type based on a code within the received message. Independent claim 1 further recites the MTP level 3 protocol integrating unit simultaneously interfacing the corresponding message to either the N-ISUP network or the B-ISUP network

according to the determined message type of the predetermined message, wherein the MTP level 3 protocol integrating unit is capable of interfacing an N-ISUP message to the N-ISUP network and interfacing a B-ISUP message to the B-ISUP network.

The applied references do not teach or suggest all these features of independent claim 1. More specifically, the Office Action appears to suggest that Bjorkqvist's exchange terminal ET 90 (FIG. 3) corresponds to the claimed protocol integrating unit. See the Office Action, page 7, last two lines. However, the ET 90 is part of the B-ISDN 10. See col. 7, lines 31-34 and lines 39-42. See also col. 2, lines 42-43 describing that the interworking function is an integral part of the B-ISDN. FIG. 3 shows that the ET 90 includes AAL5, ATM, MTP1 and MTP2 lower. Accordingly, the ET 90 within the B-ISDN is not a MTP level 3 protocol integrating unit. Rather, the ET 90 includes MTP1 and MTP2 lower. As such, the MTP1 and MTP2 lower can not be considered a MTP level 3 protocol integrating unit. Additionally, the messages from SS7 80 (corresponding to the N-ISDN 20) are received by MTP1 from MTP1 (of the SS7 80). See col. 3, lines 58-63. Accordingly, Bjorkqvist does not suggest a MTP level 3 protocol integrating unit receiving a predetermined message from a lower layer of protocol as recited in independent claim 1.

In addressing dependent claim 2, the Office Action states that Bjorkqvist teaches a primitive managing unit for determining whether a received message is the N-ISUP or the B-ISUP message since "the system knows which kind of message is being transmitted according to which direction." Applicant respectfully points out that claim 2 recited "determining" and not "knowing". For example, the present specification describes that destination/originating point

codes may be compared in order to determine the message type. Additionally, see dependent claim 3. Independent claim 1 recites that the MTP level 3 protocol integrating unit determining whether the message is an N-ISUP message type or is a B-ISUP message type based on a code within the received message. Bjorkqvist does not teach or suggest this feature. More specifically, Bjorkqvist's ET 90 within the B-ISDN 10 does not determine whether the message is an N-ISUP message type or is a B-ISUP message type based on a code within the received message. The Office Action also appears to state that the ET parses parameters appended to the message which include where it originated and its destination to determine the destination in the network. See the Office Action at page 7, lines 6-8. However, this does not suggest determining whether the message is an N-ISUP message type or is a B-ISUP message type based on a code within the received message. As one example, Bjorkqvist clearly does not send an N-ISUP from the N-ISDN 20 message to the ET 90 within the B-ISDN 10 and then determine that the N-ISUP message should be sent back to the N-ISDN 20.

As such, Bjorkqvist does not teach or suggest all the features of independent claim 1. Baumgartner does not teach or suggest the features of claim 1 missing from Bjorkqvist. Accordingly, independent claim 1 defines patentable subject matter at least for this reason.

Each of independent claims 7 and 14 defines patentable subject matter at least for similar reasons. That is, independent claim 7 recites determining that a received message is a N-ISUP message type based on a code within the received message and determining that another message is a B-ISUP message type based on the code within the another received message. Independent claim 7 further recites transmitting a N-ISUP message through the activated N-ISUP network to

the ISDN user part based on the determined message type and transmitting a B-ISUP message through the activated B-ISUP network to the ISDN user part based on the determined message type. For at least the reasons set forth above, Bjorkqvist and Baumgartner do not teach or suggest these features.

Additionally, independent claim 14 recites determining that a received message is a N-ISUP message type based on a code within the received message and determining that another message is a B-ISUP message type based on the code within the another received message. Independent claim 14 further recites transmitting a corresponding message through the activated N-ISUP network to the ISDN user part based on the determined message type and transmitting another corresponding message through the activated B-ISUP network to the ISDN user part based on the determined message type. For at least the reasons set forth above, Bjorkqvist and Baumgartner do not teach or suggest these features.

Independent claim 5 recites a message transfer part level 3 L3 protocol integrating apparatus of a network. Independent claim 5 also recites various features relating to the user data, the signal link, the signal link set and the signal route of the N-ISUP and B-ISUP networks. Independent claim 5 also recites a primitive managing unit for determining whether a received message is an N-ISUP message type or a B-ISUP message type. Finally, independent claim 5 recites a message distribution managing unit transmitting an originating N-ISUP message from the primitive managing unit through the activated N-ISUP network to an ISDN user part based on the determined message type and the message distribution managing unit transmitting an

originating B-ISUP message from the primitive managing unit through the activated B-ISUP network to the ISDN user part based on the determined message type.

In addressing independent claim 5, the Office Action states that Bjorkqvist's MTP3 104 corresponds to the message transfer part level 3 L3 protocol integrating apparatus of a network. The MTP3 104 is provided within the signaling link terminal 100. However, the Office Action then appears to reference functions of the MTP2 lower when addressing specific features of claim 5. However, the MTP2 lower is provided in ET 90, which is not the MTP3 104 (or the signaling link terminal 100). The Office Action then points to Bjorkqvist's FIG. 4 to show various features of claim 5. However, FIG. 4 merely shows functions of the MTP2 lower and upper, which does not correspond to the user data, the signal link, the signal link set and the signal route of the N-ISUP and B-ISUP as recited in independent claim 5. Therefore, Bjorkqvist (and Baumgartner) does not teach or suggest the data managing unit, the signal link managing unit, the signal link set managing unit, the signal route managing unit and the internal managing unit as recited in independent claim 5. Additionally, for at least the reasons set forth above, Bjorkqvist (and Baumgartner) does not teach or suggest the primitive managing unit and the message distribution managing unit as recited in independent claim 5.

For at least the reasons set forth above, each of independent claims 1, 5, 7 and 14 defines patentable subject matter. Each of the dependent claims depends from one of the independent claims and therefore defines patentable subject matter at least for this reason. In addition, each of the dependent claims recites features that further and independently distinguish over the applied references. For example, dependent claim 2 contains various features similar to those in

independent claim 5. Thus, dependent claim 2 defines patentable subject matter for at least the reasons set forth above.

Dependent claim 3 recites the primitive managing unit compares an originating signal point code and a destination point code included in the received message to an originated signal point code and a destination point code stored in the data managing unit in order to determine the message type. The Office Action states that Bjorkqvist does not store point codes but is capable of routing messages so there must be some information regarding the B- and N-ISUP networks. Applicant disagrees that the ET 90 must have information regarding the B- and the N-ISUP networks. Additionally, even the Office Action's allegations were correct, it still does not relate to the comparing of point codes in order to determine a message type as recited in independent claim 3 (and similarly in dependent claim 20). Thus, dependent claims 3 and 20 define patentable subject matter at least for this additional reason.

Even further, dependent claim 21 recites receiving the N-ISUP message from an MTP level 2 protocol prior to determining the type of the received message. Dependent claim 22 recites receiving the B-ISUP message from an asynchronous transfer mode adaptation layer prior to determining the type of the received message. The Office Action broadly cites Bjorkqvist's col. 3, line 56 and col. 4, lines 5-7. However, these sections do not teach or suggest the features of each of dependent claims 21 and 22.

Still further, dependent claim 24 recites the protocol integrating unit comprises a single unit to coupled to each of the N-ISUP network and the B-ISUP network. The Office Action cites Bjorkqvist's ET 90 to allegedly show the claimed single unit. However, the ET 90 does not

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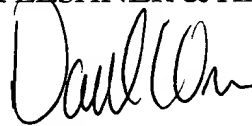
couple to each of a N-ISUP network and a B-ISUP network. Rather, the ET 90 is provided within the B-ISDN 10. Accordingly, dependent claim 24 defines patentable subject matter at least for this reason.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-25 are earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, **David C. Oren**, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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